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EXPIRY DATE: March 31, 2014.

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Couple charged after dog nearly starves to death

Shepherd-cross has yet to regain full strength: BC SPCA PAGE 6

Before you tell Bill from sales what you really think ...

... read these tips on handling inter-office conflict PAGE 24

BEFORE BAUER, THERE WAS RYAN

JACK'S BACK, AND THIS TIME CHRIS PINE TAKES ON THE ROLE OF THE TERRORIST-THWARTING CLANCY CHARACTER PAGE 16

Abbotsford OK's needle exchanges

Health. City votes to permit harm reduction with bylaw overhaul

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Needle exchanges, methadone clinics and supervised injection sites are now legal in Abbotsford after city council voted Monday night to amend a 2005 bylaw that prohibited harm-reduction measures.

The Fraser Health Authority (FHA) wrote to the city in 2010 and asked it to change the zoning bylaw to allow needle exchanges because of concerns about rising rates of hepatitis C.

But don't expect to see a supervised injection site like Vancouver's Insite pop up anytime soon.

"We've been very clear: There's only one city in Canada that has an injection site. Abbotsford has no interest in being the second. None," said Mayor Bruce Banman on Tuesday.

He supported the bylaw amendment on the condition that measures are taken to ensure needles are disposed of properly.

The PHS Community Services Society's mobile needle-exchange van parks outside Abbotsford City Hall in this file photo. COURTESY PHS

Abbotsford's medical health officer, Marcus Lem, said that because of push-back from conservative, religious residents, he did not ask for anything more than to be able to distribute and collect needles in 10 to 15 existing outreach centres.

But attitudes in other cities are changing, and FHA would not be alone if it did eventually ask for a supervised injection site — which is different from a needle exchange in that it always has nurses on hand to provide life-saving intervention if someone overdoses.

Montreal has made plans to open three permanent supervised injection sites, and Toronto's health authority is also pushing for several small ones, in light of studies showing Insite has reduced overdose deaths, blood-borne diseases and health-care costs while boosting enrolment in drug treatment and recovery programs.

Lem said he wants to be respectful of the community's wishes and does not see a safe injection site in the cards for Abbotsford. But one thing he does plan to push hard for is the distribution of overdose kits containing the drug Naloxone, which can counteract the effects of heroin and other opioids.

"They're being distributed in Vancouver, but we're not doing it," Lem said.

"In places like Abbotsford we've been holding back because we've been trying to be respectful of the bylaw."

Lem said FHA has also hired a nurse in Abbotsford who specializes in preventing blood-borne diseases to help facilitate the introduction of the needle exchanges.

For several years, a number of outreach organizations have been driving vans full of clean needles and supplies to Abbotsford, while pushing to get the unenforced bylaw overturned.

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Burns Lake

Gov. satisfied with probe into deadly explosion

The B.C. government isn't interested in reviewing the investigation into the Babine Forest Products mill explosion.

New Democrats have accused WorkSafeBC of "bungling" its investigation into the 2012 fire, which killed two employees in Burns Lake, after the Criminal Justice Branch cited procedural errors in its decision not to approval charges in the case.

Opposition leader Adrian Dix called for an independent investigation on Monday — a call that was supported by Maureen Luggi, the widowed wife of victim Robert Luggi — but Attorney General Suzanne Anton was dismissive of the idea.

"I recognize that this tragic incident has had tremendous impact on the workers and families directly affected, as well as on the community of Burns Lake," Anton said in a statement provided to Metro by the Ministry of Justice late Monday evening.

"I have been briefed on the Criminal Justice Branch decision and am confident that Crown Counsel have conducted a thorough and careful review of this matter. Our office is not contemplating an independent review."

Impacted families of the Jan. 20, 2012, explosion will be able to view the WorkSafeBC report — which has been complete since early 2013 — into the incident this week before it is finally made public. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Vancouver's COPE party advocates for an affordable city. FACEBOOK

Early bird gets the vote, says COPE

Candidate selection moved up. Party seeks return to its historical power in next election

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

In its bid to oust the ruling Vision Vancouver party, the Coalition of Progressive Electors will choose mayoral and councillor candidates earlier than ever in order to give nominees more time to woo the public.

The party will vote on candidates for November's election for council, park board and school board at a two-day conference in June, COPE's executive director Sean Antrim announced Tuesday.

"We want to have decided and united people running well in advance of the election," Antrim said, as candidates are often chosen later in the summer or even in fall.

COPE, which once dominated Vancouver's political scene, doesn't have a single elected official and hasn't run a mayoral candidate since Larry Campbell won in 2002. In 2011, Allan Wong won a COPE seat on the school board but defected to Vision in late 2013.

The party supported Vision for the past two elections, but this time it will break free with its own platform due to "disappointment" with the governing party.

Strategy

"We want to have decided and united people running well in advance of the election."
COPE executive director Sean Antrim

And it's not worried about infighting between diverse factions inside the party, Antrim said.

"That's the nature of the beast of holding an open nomination process," he said, adding the party is opening up the process to try to attract candidates who aren't "strictly insiders."

"The fact that people are fighting over running for a nomination in COPE is a good thing."

The Non-Partisan Association has yet to announce when it will select its mayoral and council candidates, though Coun. George Affleck has told Metro he will seek re-election.

Green Party Coun. Adriane Carr has also indicated she will put her name on the ballot again.

Despite rumours he will move to other levels of government, Vision Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson confirmed to Metro again in December that he plans to run for a third term.

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‘Honour’? Mother, uncle threatened daughter’s secret husband with death: Crown

A Crown lawyer says the mother and uncle of a young British Columbia woman believed murdered in a so-called honour killing went to India and threatened her secret, lower-caste husband and his family with death.

Malkit Kaur Sidhu and Surjit Singh Badesha face extradition to India where they are accused of conspiracy and murder charges in the death of Jassi Sidhu.

The 25-year-old Maple Ridge woman was killed in Punjab in June 2000, while her husband, a poor rickshaw driver, survived the attack.

Crown lawyer Deborah Strachan says the court has evidence that the mother and uncle told the husband that they had the money to “eliminate” him and his family if he didn’t annul the marriage.

And while there is evidence that Jassi Sidhu loved her mother and her mother loved her, Strachan says the elder woman was a part of the conspiracy. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Homicide team called

Richmond’s first murder of 2014 investigated

A man found dying on the side of a Richmond road Monday afternoon is believed to be the city’s first murder victim of 2014.

Police and paramedics tried to save the man after responding to a 911 call reporting an injured male in the 8400 block of Steveston Highway, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The injuries indicate the man was murdered, according to the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team.

Anyone with information is asked to call IHIT at 1-877-551-4448 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Three-foot python found in B.C. Wind Mobile store

A three-foot ball python was discovered at the Wind Mobile store at Lansdowne Mall in Richmond on Monday. COURTESY VAL LOFVENDAHL/REPTILERESCUERICHMOND.ORG

Is Lord Voldemort around? RCMP officers scratching their heads over who the snake belongs to, where it came from or how it got there

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH
vancouver@metronews.ca

Owners of the Wind Mobile store at Lansdowne Mall in Richmond made a skin-shedding discovery Monday evening when a three-foot ball python slithered into their store.

Quoted

“We were prepared. We brought a container and rubber gloves.”

Val Lofvendahl of reptile rescue

They contained the python in the back of the store and called Richmond RCMP, who then called animal control and reptile rescue.

“We were prepared,” said Val Lofvendahl of reptile rescue, who arrived at the scene with her daughter to capture the snake. “We brought a container and rubber gloves. It turned out to be a ball python sitting on cardboard. Ball pythons are generally docile, and this one was (docile).”

Her guess is that someone released the unwanted snake at the mall.

She estimates that the snake is two years old.

“It was just shy of three feet. Our guess for the age comes from the size and weight,” she said.

Richmond RCMP Cpl. Stephanie Ashton said police have no idea who the snake belongs to, where it came from or how it got there.

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Charges laid in case of emaciated dog

Molly. Vancouver Island couple accused of animal cruelty after SPCA intervention

Charges of animal cruelty have been laid against a Vancouver Island couple after an emaciated and shivering shepherd-cross dog was found near death on the porch of their Port Hardy-area home.

The BC SPCA says 18-month-old Molly was near death and needed life-saving veterinary care when RCMP in Port Hardy were alerted to her condition on Nov. 25.

Marcie Moriarty, BC SPCA chief prevention and enforcement officer, says the dog weighed just 12.2 kilograms and her collar was also deeply embedded in her neck.

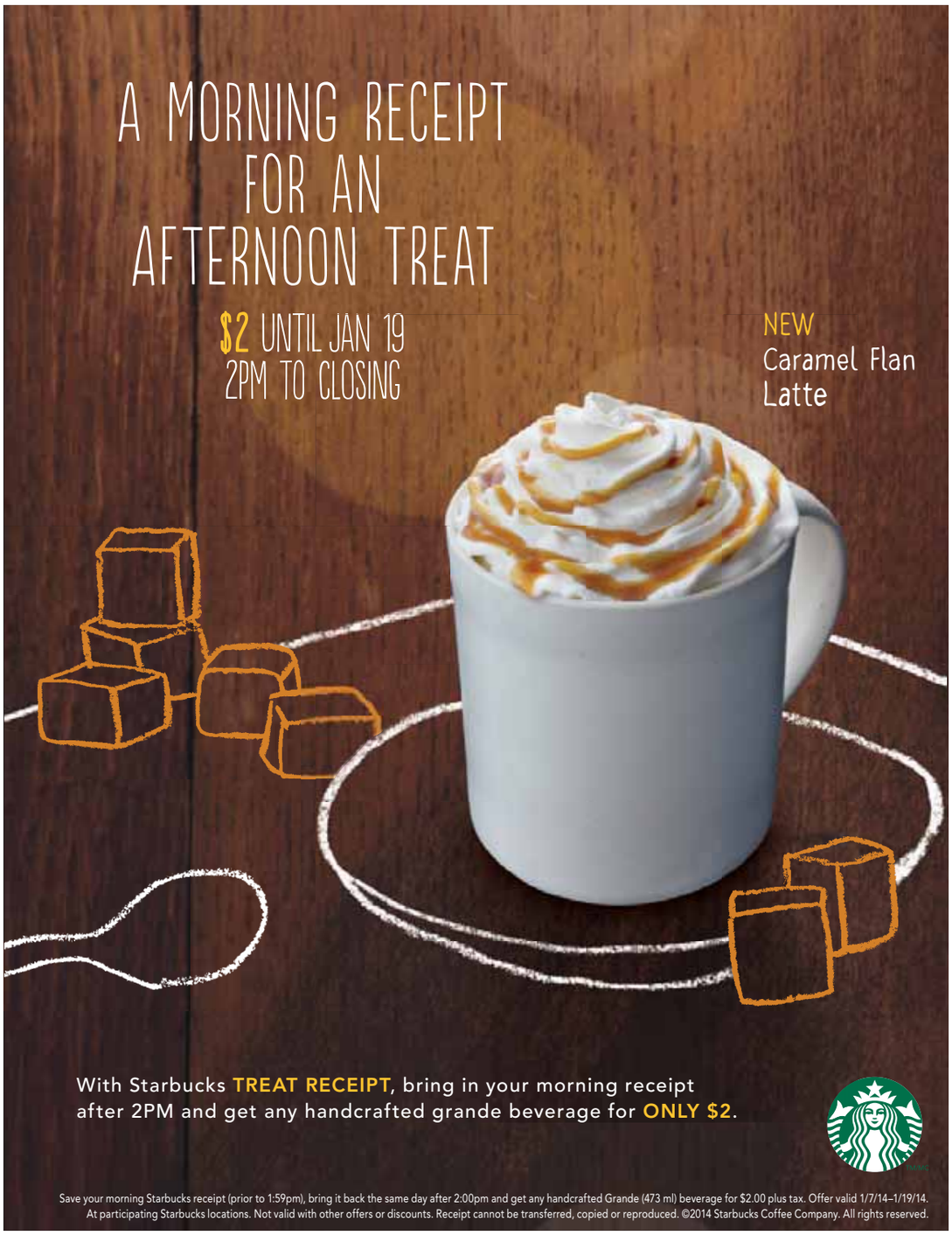
Since then, Moriarty says Molly has gained more than six kilograms while in foster care, but at 18.8 kilograms she is still too thin and can't be moved to her waiting permanent home until she is stronger.

SPCA spokeswoman Lorie Chortyk confirms Rupert Wilson and Crystal Bee each face charges of causing unnecessary pain and suffering to an animal and causing injury to an animal.

A next court date for the pair has not been set.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Molly was found near death in November. COURTESY BC SPCA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Study. Diluted bitumen with sediments sinks

A new federal government study has concluded that diluted bitumen — the product that would be transported by the Northern Gateway pipeline — sinks in seawater when battered by waves and mixed with sediments.

However, when free of sediments, the molasses-like crude floats even after evaporation and exposure to light.

The report also says that the commercial dispersant, Corexit 9500, used in previous clean-up efforts, had a limited effect on dispersing diluted bitumen.

The study examined two blends of crude, the Access Western Blend and Cold Lake Blend, which represent the highest volume of bitumen products transported by pipeline in Canada from 2012 to 2013.

Conducting research on how the oil would behave in a marine environment was one of the 209 conditions announced by a review panel that approved the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline in December.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Island

Ex-Mountie accused of making child pornography

Mounties on Vancouver Island are investigating a former officer for possessing and producing child pornography while he was still with the RCMP and off duty.

Discharge documents from the unidentified officer were accepted within 24 hours of his arrest in late December, according to Island District Chief Supt. Ray Bernoties.

Police are recommending two charges of possessing and producing child pornography.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Transit

Man charged in attack on lesbian couple last year

A 45-year-old Burnaby resident is facing two charges in relation to an assault on a lesbian couple on Sept. 18.

The women were assaulted after getting off a bus at Commercial Drive and East Hasting Street, said Vancouver police.

The suspect was arrested in November with the help of the public and transit police.

Andrew Joseph Walko was charged with assault and assault causing bodily harm on Jan. 8.

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/FOR METRO

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Pickton case. Serial killer makes video appearance

Serial killer Robert Pickton has appeared in a Vancouver court via video over a series of lawsuits filed by the families of several murdered women.

The lawyer for the families of nine women was in court making several applications related to the lawsuits, and Pickton was asked whether he wanted to participate in the process. Pickton sat in a room at Kent Institution, southeast of Vancouver in Agassiz. He spoke in a raspy voice, telling the judge it made no difference to him whether he participated in the hearing.

The families are asking the government to pay for their legal bills and to accept the findings of a public inquiry.

It's unclear when the case might go to trial and the hearing was adjourned until Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daughter was on lap

Mom says bullet shot from upper suite struck her

A Kamloops woman has tearfully testified that her four-year-old daughter was sitting on her lap when she was struck by a bullet from a gun fired in an upper suite.

Tanya Watkins told B.C. Supreme Court that she was watching TV with her family on June 4, 2013, when she heard an unbelievably loud bang and felt pain like she'd never felt before.

Watkins says the bullet could have hit her head but entered her elbow because she was sitting with her arm over her head. She said the bullet was surgically removed near her tricep and the shattered bone was replaced by metal and screws.

Watkins says her daughter continues to have nightmares and is in counselling.

Trevor Wilvers, 35, is facing eight charges including criminal negligence causing bodily harm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two shot, one stabbed after fight in apartment

Downtown. Police continue to investigate, seek co-operation from witnesses

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH
vancouver@metronews.ca

Three men that were rushed to hospital following a shooting and stabbing incident at a downtown apartment on Monday night are not co-operating with police.

Vancouver police arrived to the Park Royal Apartments on West Pender Street at Richards at 8:15 p.m. Monday night after tenants reported hearing gunshots, said VPD Sgt. Randy Fincham. There, officers found one man who had been shot and another who had been stabbed. They were both taken to hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

A short time later, a 28-year-old Surrey man, who police believe was also in the building, arrived at the emergency room with a non-life threatening gunshot wound. All three men are in stable condition and police do not believe that there are any other suspects.

"This one is difficult because there was a certain amount of people inside the suite at the time, and it's important that we get co-operation from them," said Fincham.

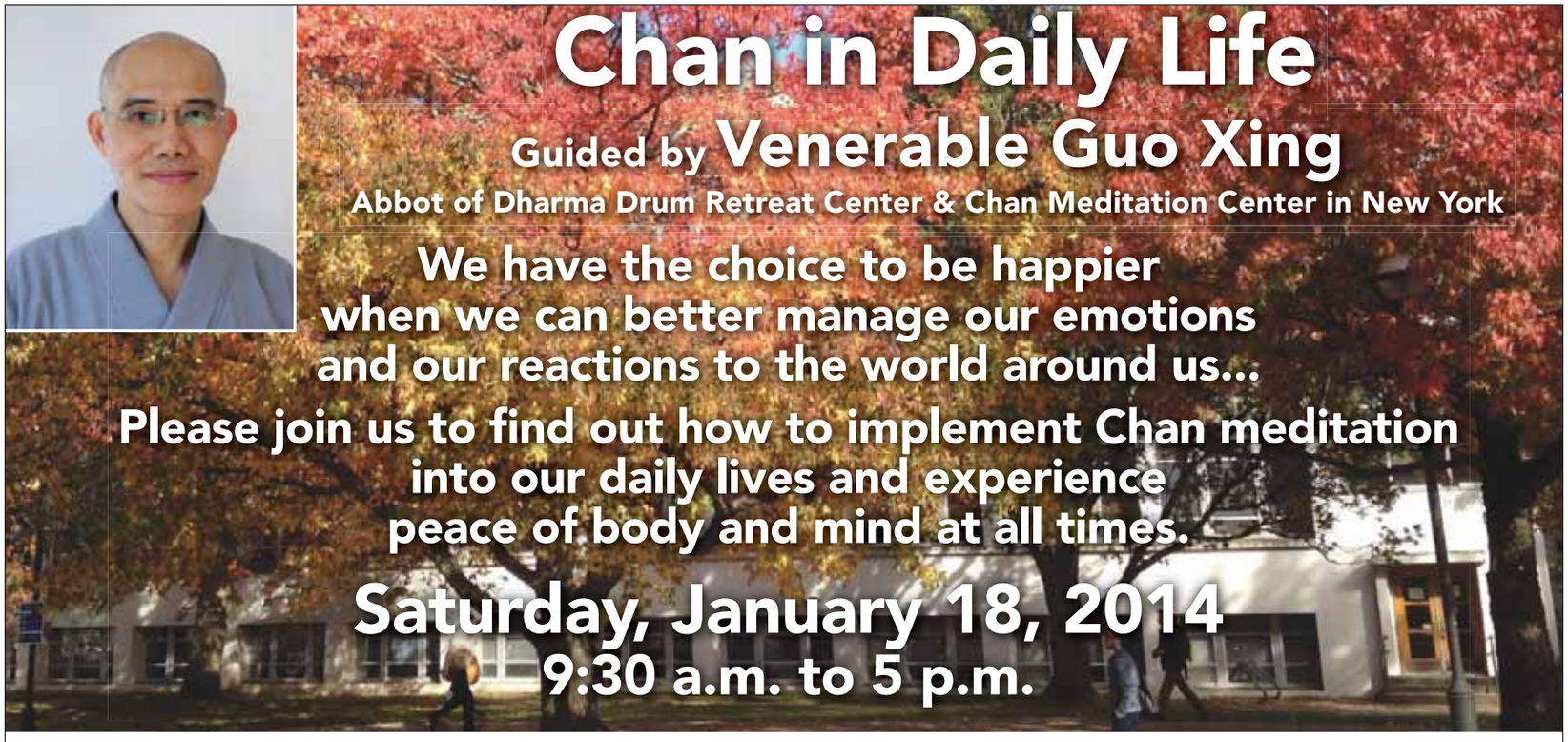
A firearm was later found inside the building and all three men are known to police.

"Regardless of the amount of co-operation we get from the three men that were involved last night (Monday), we do have the ability to lay criminal charges if we can prove that an offence was committed inside in relations to weapons."

He said it is too early to determine whether the incident was gang-related and no charges have been laid.

Three men were involved in a fight that ended with two shot and one stabbed at the Park Royal Apartments on West Pender Street at Richards.
SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/FOR METRO

The VPD major-crime section and forensic unit investigated throughout the night and police were interviewing witnesses in the building Tuesday morning.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Stationery. Clement pays back taxpayers for second set of fancy business cards

Among Tony Clement's stack of Christmas bills this year was one to pay taxpayers back for a second set of gold-embossed business cards that broke government rules.

Clement, the Treasury Board president, used his personal credit card last week to reimburse his department $195.98 for cards that were ordered back in 2011, when he first took the cabinet post.

The Jan. 8 payment was in addition to the $434 he reimbursed taxpayers last month for another set of forbidden gold-embossed cards.

Each set featured the Arms of Canada decorated with gold leaf, a costly stationery option that has been banned across government since 1994.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political finance probe

MP's cousin's firm searched

Two people who contributed to MP Dean Del Mastro's 2008 election campaign said they were reimbursed at a profit by a company owned by the MP's cousin, court documents related to a search warrant request show. Investigators searched the offices of Deltro in Mississauga, Ont., last fall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Wide Worries?

U.S. net neutrality rules set aside by appeals court

In a decision that could reshape Americans' access to online content, a federal appeals court Tuesday set aside FCC rules that barred broadband providers from prioritizing some types of Internet traffic over others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexican drug tunnels and the robots that patrol them

This July 8, 2004, photo shows a Mexican federal agent crawling through a hidden tunnel, presumably used to transport drugs from Mexico to the U.S. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time. DAVID MAUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

U.S. border security. With cartels turning to subterranean methods to smuggle drugs into the U.S., officials turn to technology to stop them

As U.S. border security has tightened, drug cartels have turned to tunnelling beneath the ground to avoid detection.

Nearly 170 tunnels have been found nationwide since 1990, most along the Arizona and California border with Mexico. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time.

Tunnel construction ranges from extremely rudimentary to very sophisticated, with lights, supports and ventilation. They can range from a few feet to nearly a kilometre long.

So-called tunnel robots have been in use by Border Patrol for several years. They can safely navigate through corrugated pipes, tunnels, and drainage systems while an agent controls the device from the surface, seeing what the robot sees on a handheld screen. The robots are used, in part, as a safety measure to keep agents out of harm's way as many tunnels can be poorly built and possibly collapse and lack proper ventilation.

They also can navigate an underground labyrinth in a fraction of the time it would take an agent to explore the tunnel. Some of the newer robots, which weigh about 5.5 kilograms and can navigate through passageways that are only several feet wide, are being deployed this year across southern Arizona and California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Who's my daddy, asks daughter in sperm scandal

University of Utah. Hotline received 17 calls about possible tampering with semen at clinic once operated by faculty members

A 1998 booking photo of Thomas Ray Lippert provided by Salt Lake County Jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The suspect is dead, the fertility clinic where he reportedly replaced a customer's sperm with his own no longer operates, and the clinic left no records that might show the extent of the scandal, the University of Utah said Tuesday.

Officials say they may never get to the bottom of a complaint that a convicted felon working at the clinic two decades ago switched his sperm, leaving a now 21-year-old woman asking, "Who am I?"

The mix-up happened in 1991, the clinic shut down the following year and the suspect died in 1999.

The mother of the 21-year-old woman, Pamela Branum, has said she and her husband discovered a genetic mismatch in their daughter and were able to trace her lineage with help from relatives of the now-deceased fertility clinic worker, Thomas Ray Lippert.

Branum said she believes the university hasn't conducted a serious investigation and is trying to conceal the possibility of a wider scandal.

"I thought I was this person (of) my mom and my dad," the family's daughter told CBS affiliate KUTV. "Now, my dad is not my biological father. Who am I?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australians keep their cool in heat wave

People jump into the sea to keep cool at St Kilda Beach on Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia. Temperatures are expected to reach over 40 C in parts of Victoria over the next four days. It was so hot that Canadian qualifier Frank Dancevic fainted mid-match at the Australian Open tennis tournament on Tuesday.

CRAIG SILLITOE/GETTY IMAGES

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Hollande angry over tabloid story

Overshadowed by scandal. President announced economic measures to encourage hiring Tuesday

Under pressure over a magazine report that he is having a secret affair with an actress, French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday he is going through "painful moments" with his companion but otherwise sidestepped specifics on his personal life.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison. Speaking at a major news conference, Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the venue in front of hundreds of reporters was "neither the place nor the moment" to discuss the issue.

The report in the magazine Closer showed photos of a man the magazine identified as Hollande wearing a motorcycle helmet and being ferried on the back of a small scooter to an alleged tryst with film actress Julie Gayet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals — that's the case with us."

French President Francois Hollande

Referendum: Egyptians vote on a new constitution

An Egyptian man flashes the victory sign as he lines up to vote in the country's constitutional referendum in Cairo on Tuesday. Upbeat and resentful of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptians voted on a new constitution in a referendum that will pave the way for a likely presidential run by the nation's top general Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi, months after he ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wireless auction won't knock Big 3 off throne

No challenge to crown, yet. Bidding for the 700 megahertz waves won't topple Bell, Rogers and Telus from top

Bidding for a coveted piece of Canada's wireless market started Tuesday.

Experts say the 700 megahertz waves up for auction are particularly valuable because they allow cellphone signals to travel longer distances and penetrate buildings and tunnels where calls are often dropped.

The signal also requires fewer cellphone towers to provide coverage in rural areas.

Ten players are in the game, including Canada's big three telecom companies: Bell, Rogers and Telus.

Among regional bidders are Quebecor's Vidéotron in Quebec, MTS Inc. in Manitoba, Saskatchewan Telecommunications and Bragg Communications, which operates EastLink in Atlantic Canada. But Wind Mobile's parent, Globalive Communications, pulled out Monday due to a lack of funds.

It's expected to be weeks before Industry Canada discloses who won licences and how much they paid for them.

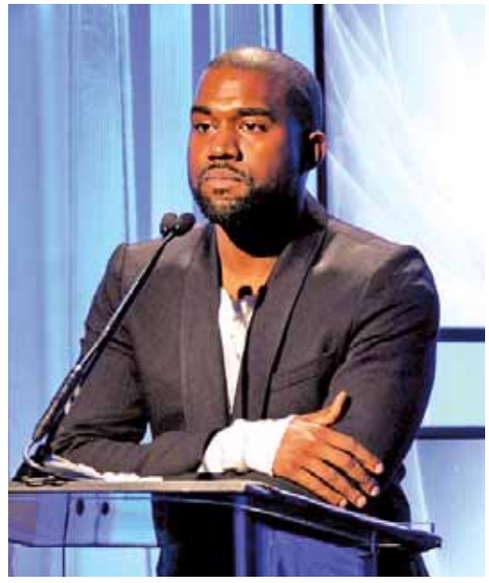
The previous auction in 2008 for different spectrum raised $4.3 billion and ushered in a host of new players. But experts say lack of new competition means this auction won't likely raise as much money as expected, even though it's a more valuable piece of spectrum.

Hopes for foreign competitors to shake up the industry were dashed last fall when U.S. giant Verizon dropped the idea of expanding into Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourth player?

The federal government say they want a fourth national player in every region of the country to give consumers more choice and to help lower fees. But, no serious threat to Bell, Rogers and Telus has surfaced yet.



Yo, Coinye, I'm not gonna let you finish

Hip hop star Kanye West filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court to stop production of "Coinye West" bitcoins, which he says unjustly cash in on his fame. West's lawsuit seeks to stop companies and individuals that have not yet been identified from exchanging the digital currency, and also seeks unspecified damages for hurting West's reputation. As of Tuesday, the Coinye website stated, "Coinye is dead. You win, Kanye." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR
91.34¢
(-0.86¢)

TSX
13,692.38 (+ 10.90)

OIL
$92.59 US (+ $0.79)

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The Mona Lisa?

Fuhgeddaboudit! The ideal woman, according to the dating site Plenty of Fish, is: "A 25-year-old Catholic woman who owns a dog, describes herself as thin, and drinks alcohol three times a week."

This paragon of femininity is likely to receive more messages than any other woman.

I don't know about you, but she sounds a little high-maintenance to me. A potential three hangovers a week when she stays in bed and you have to walk the stupid dog ... and then you're expected to go to church on Sunday while she tends to her guilty conscience.

Oh, and she's smarter than you are, as somehow she already has a graduate degree at 25.

Unlike previous ideals such as Mona and Helen of Troy, this vision of female perfection is not the obsession of some mooning poet with bad facial hair, but grounded in science: a just-released survey of 81,000 online anglers at Plenty of Fish.

So, as you're (literally) making up your online profile, here are some other science-based tips:

— Dogs are good, but only in the abstract. Women who post photos of themselves with the actual Rottweiler don't get as many messages.

— Don't state your age as 33, because 33-year-olds get the lowest number of messages. Further research (random numerology websites) shows 33 people described as: "Healers, compassionate, blessings, teacher of teachers, martyr, inspiration, honesty, discipline, bravery, courage." No wonder. Who can live up to that?

— Finally, whatever you do, drink. Women who say they abstain from alcohol get 24 per cent fewer messages.

I guess this profile says more about the guys doing the fishing than the female fish. The ideal woman sounds like the proverbial Good Sport. I'm surprised she doesn't come with a plaid shirt and a pickup truck.

But it doesn't matter what guys want, does it?

The ideal guy, as chosen by female fishers of men, earns between $100,000 and $150,000 a year. It helps to have a doctorate, MD or law degree. And, of course, you want to have children, even if you're too busy earning $150k to remember their names.

You apparently don't have to worry about your age, but you should also have dark hair, so I presume that means you should still have hair. Also, the longer your, er, bio, the more likely you are to get a reply. Women like a man who can talk at length about himself. Right.

After reading this survey, I am no longer surprised about that other statistic: More than half of marriages end up in divorce.

Good thing there are still plenty of fish in the sea, even if they are 33.

ZOOM

Hella wicked sight made of sound

COURTESY DLR

Helicopter noise seen for first time

Scientists have revealed why helicopters produce the noise they do – by showing for the first time the sound waves from their rotor blades.

Researchers from the German Aerospace Center in Göttingen developed a way of taking pictures of vortices that form at the blades' tips. METRO

Making vortices

As the rotor blades punch through the atmosphere, they create a vortex at their tips, caused by a difference in pressure around the blade (reduced pressure above the blade and an area of increased pressure below it).

As the rotors spin and hit the vortices of their adjacent blades, they produce the helicopter's distinctive "carpet beater" noise. METRO

Copter rocks it

In this image, blade-tip vortices are visible as dark lines during a complete rotation of the main rotor.

The engine exhaust flows are perceptible as a noisy area trailing the helicopter. The tail rotor's vortex system is also visible (black, circular lines on the tail rotor). The helicopter is pictured performing a rocking manoeuvre. METRO

Experts track bent light to spot sound

To photograph the vortices, scientists at DLR used a light-tracking technique called the Background Oriented Schlieren Method.

Light rays are refracted as they travel through sections of atmosphere with varying densities. This phenomenon is seen against a suitable background — in this case, a limestone quarry. METRO

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

With Bitcoin becoming increasingly mainstream, hipster speculators and economic-rollercoaster fans are looking elsewhere for their crypto-currency fix. Bitcoin's software is actually open source, meaning anyone can copy it and make their own version. Here are some people who did.

COURTESY DOGECOIN

Litecoin:

Often described as "the silver to Bitcoin's gold," Litecoin was one of the first Bitcoin alternatives on the market. It's also seen a sharp rise in value, currently trading at about $23 per coin. Unlike its predecessor — which required massive computing power to mine effectively — it's easier to mine with the average PC.

Dogecoin:

If you prefer your digital dollars in meme form, then Dogecoin is for you. Named after the smiling Shiba Inu dog who became the most popular Internet meme of 2013, the currency started as a joke but gained value as more users jumped on the bandwagon. Wow.

Letters

RE: Health Authority to Probe Deaths of 2 Patients Shortly after Hospital Discharge, published online Friday, Jan. 10

I just wanted to comment on the story about the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the two people that died ... it is a horrible thing! But I don't think they should be passing the blame on to the Taxi Cab Board.

Sure, they likely should have a policy in place to make sure people get into their houses ... however, that is not the main problem or fault here!

It is the fact that the hospitals are not getting people well before they send them home, PLUS they are not phoning a relative or caregiver that they are releasing these people. Someone should know that they are going home! Then the problem would not be happening at all.

Rosemarie Menzies, Winnipeg

Who is expecting them?

"Someone should know that they are going home!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

Chris Pine ready for duty as latest Jack Ryan recruit

Man of many faces. As the fourth Jack Ryan, Pine wants to 'stay true' to Tom Clancy's famous character

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In your mind's eye when you picture ex-Marine turned CIA analyst Jack Ryan, who do you see?

Is he a dark-haired, suave six-foot movie star with a hot temper and a racy Twitter account? Or maybe a world-weary fellow with a scar on his chin and a resemblance to Indiana Jones? Or how about the Red Sox fan formerly known as Bennifer?

Created by writer Tom Clancy, Jack Ryan is the lead character in nine novels and the star of five films. This weekend we'll see him uncover a Russian plot to destroy the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit.

Chris Pine, best known as Captain Kirk in the recently rebooted Star Trek series, is the newest member of the Ryanverse, and hopes to bring something new to the character.

"I can't be Alec Baldwin," he told Empire. "I can't be Harrison Ford. I can only really do my own thing and stay true to the pillars of this character."

Baldwin originated Ryan on screen in the 1990 high-tech thriller The Hunt for Red October.

The movie could have been the beginning of a James Bond-esque franchise for Baldwin, but he left the series after just one outing despite the film being one of the top grossing movies of the year. In a Huffington Post blog he says he was pushed aside for another actor "with much greater strength at the box office."

Baldwin doesn't name names, but Harrison Ford soon signed on, playing Ryan in Patriot Games and Clear and Present Danger.

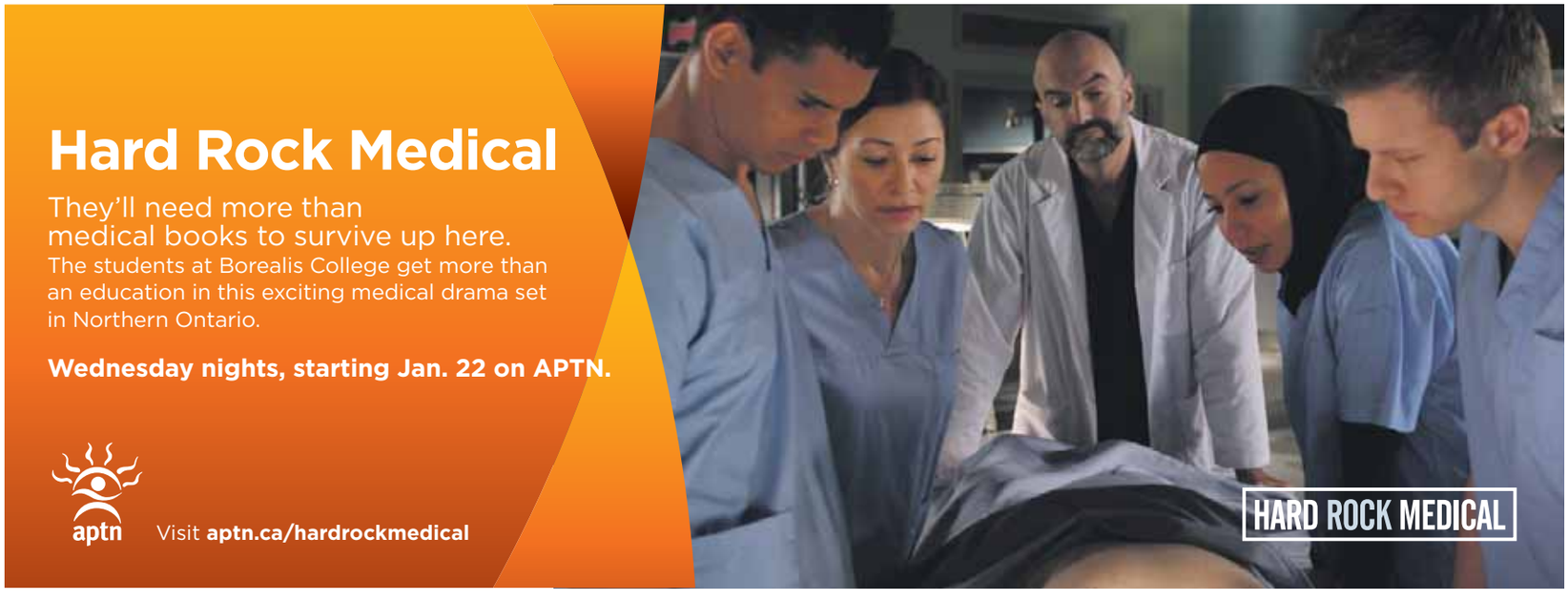
Author Clancy, who passed away in 2013, was not a fan of the Ford years. He thought the two movies dumbed down his original stories and thought Ford was too old to play the role. "Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp," he said.

Next up was Ben Affleck, who took over in the 2002 prequel The Sum of All Fears.

"The day I received the offer to play Jack Ryan," said Affleck, "I was filming a Pearl Harbor scene with Alec Baldwin. He was very sweet and said I should do it."

The part's originator has become the go-to guy with actors who sign up to play Ryan. When he was offered the part, Pine was shooting Guardians of the Galaxy with Baldwin. "He urged me to hold onto it," said Pine, "and to attack it."

Chris Pine stars as Jack Ryan in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. CONTRIBUTED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Big Bad Wolves has quite the bite

Bloody great. Violent Israeli thriller adored by Quentin Tarantino is a cinematic heavy hitter

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Lior Ashkenazi and Menashe Noy star in Big Bad Wolves, which opens Friday in Toronto CONTRIBUTED

Though we haven't the foggiest how many new movies Quentin Tarantino actually watched last year, the maverick director's assessment of Israeli filmmakers Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado's shattering revenge thriller Big Bad Wolves as "the best film of the year" is hyperbole worth considering. It's really that good.

"We met him in Busan film festival," Keshales told Metro of the event surrounding the screening QT saw.

"Mr. Tarantino came to see the film and at the end, during the Q and A, he raised his hand and said all the beautiful things he said about Big Bad Wolves. He also talked to Navot after the screening and gave us some advice. He did an amazing thing for our film and we feel blessed to have our idol endorsing our film."

Tarantino's thumbs up may have put Big Bad Wolves on the pop culture radar, but its power to shock and provoke is distinctly the work of its creators. Their 2012 sleeper gem Rabies turned heads internationally and Wolves pushes that picture's blackly comic, ultra-violent ferocity into new, troubling and yet amusing directions.

In it, a rogue policeman and a desperate father kidnap and brutalize the mild-manner teacher they suspect is behind a spate of child murders. But that's just the meat and potatoes set-up of this masterful, serpentine shocker, one that treads a fine line between satire and outright horror show.

"When dealing with such a delicate subject, you have to trust your intuition and gut feeling," the director says.

"If you feel you're crossing a line then you're crossing a line. If you think you're doing something in a very bad taste then you're doing it. Another recommendation is to give the script to the more delicate souls in your family, like my mother. If she can read it to the last page without tossing it away in shock then you did good. If she laughs, well you just managed to fiendishly manipulate the most tender heart in the world."

Violent, imaginative and super-stylish, the critically revered Big Bad Wolves has firmly put the duo on the map as forces of dark fiction filmmaking and is paving the way for their next projects including a segment in the upcoming ABC's Of Death 2 as well as a surreal, typically violent, atypically Israeli, spaghetti western, currently in pre-production.

"Never in our wildest dreams have we thought we'd get such a strong international response (from our work),"says Keshales.

"After Rabies we decided to make a film that took the revenge theme to the absurd. We have a moral stand in Big Bad Wolves but still we didn't how people would react to this new approach and the things we have to say about the 'macho men' in our country."

Big Bad Wolves opens Friday.

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THE OTHER SIDE

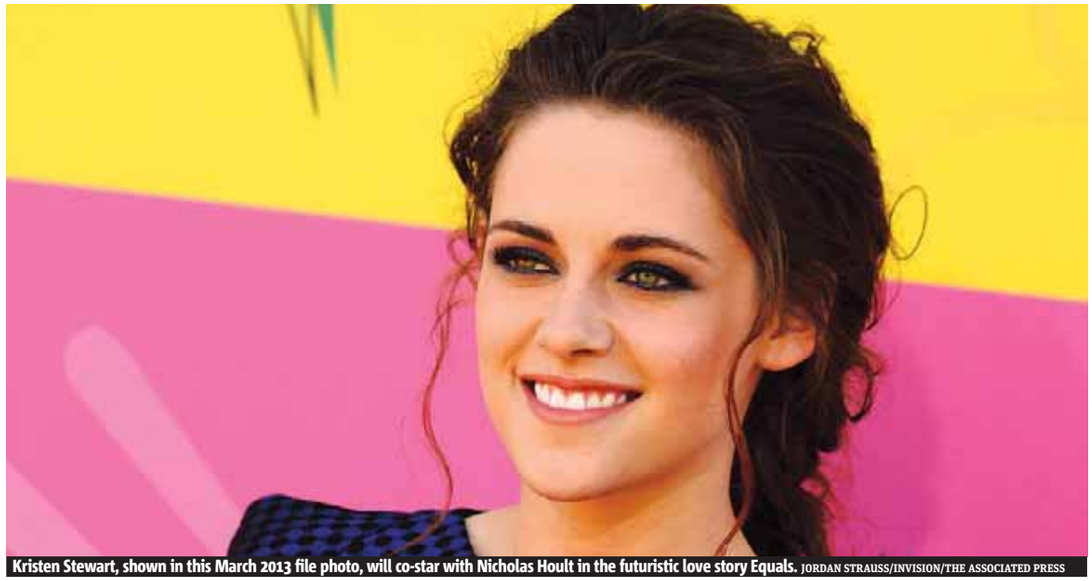
Stewart 'terrified' to take on Equals

Fearing the future. Actress says she can't believe she agreed to work on Drake Doremus' ambitious new sci-fi drama

Quoted

"It's a love story of epic, epic, epic proportion. I'm scared."

Kirsten Stewart
On playing the lead in Equals



Kristen Stewart, shown in this March 2013 file photo, will co-star with Nicholas Hoult in the futuristic love story Equals. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kristen Stewart has signed on to play the lead in Like Crazy director Drake Doremus' futuristic love story Equals, and it's making her a nervous wreck.

"I can't believe I agreed to do it," said the Twilight actress about her upcoming role in the sci-fi drama, which also stars Nicholas Hoult of the upcoming X-Men: Days of Future Past.

Stewart describes Equals as a slightly updated version of the 1956 film 1984, based on George Orwell's classic novel about rebellion in a repressed futuristic society. Equals begins filming later this year.

"I'm terrified of it," said the 23-year-old actress in a recent interview. "Though it's a movie with a really basic concept, it's overtly ambitious."

"In Equals, things go wrong because you can't deny the humanity in everyone," said Stewart. "It's the most devastating story."

Adds Doremus of his sixth film: "It's about love in a world where love really doesn't exist anymore."

Written by Nathan Parker (Moon), Equals is the first film Doremus will direct that he didn't write himself.

"I trust Drake's process and I know we will do something really natural and real," said Stewart. "But I told Drake, 'Don't expect that I am going to be able to do this. It's too hard.' But he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. I've given directors disclaimers before, but never this much."

Jennifer Lawrence, who appeared in 2011's Like Crazy, was one of the first actresses to read Parker's script. Though the story brought her to tears, she couldn't see herself in the role, said Doremus.

"It became evident in my head that Nick and Kristen would have great chemistry," the director said.

This week, the actress heads to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where she'll star in writer-director Peter Sattler's soldier film Camp X-Ray.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Investigation underway after Kimye chiropractor confrontation

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

The Beverly Hills Police Department has some questions for Kanye West.

The rapper allegedly walked into a chiropractor's office on Monday and punched a young man who had been haranguing him and his fiancée, Kim Kardashian, with a torrent of racial slurs. Police have confirmed they are conducting an investigation into the incident.

"On Monday, January 13th at approximately 12:15 PM, the Beverly Hills Police Department responded to the 8800 block of Wilshire Blvd. regarding a Misdemeanor Battery that just occurred at the location. The named suspect was identified as Kanye West by the victim and several witnesses," the Beverly Hills Police said in a statement.

"Mr. West had left the location prior to Officers' arrival. As of this writing, BHPD Detectives are conducting a follow-up investigation. No further information at this time."

Apparently, the young man tried to help Kardashian into the medical building in Beverly Hills and started shouting slurs including the n-word at the paparazzi.

When Kardashian asked him not to use the term, he allegedly cursed her off as well, repeating the slur.

After Kim called Kanye for help, the young man cursed him out too.

Of course I would never condone violence, but I find myself very much with Team Kimye on this one.

Police scramble to crack case of egg-regious vandalism

Detectives searched Justin Bieber's home looking for surveillance footage that might serve as evidence the pop star was involved in an egg-tossing vandalism case that caused thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbour's home, an official said Tuesday.

Roughly a dozen investigators searched Bieber's home and arrested one member of the singer's entourage on suspicion of cocaine possession, Lt. David Thompson said.

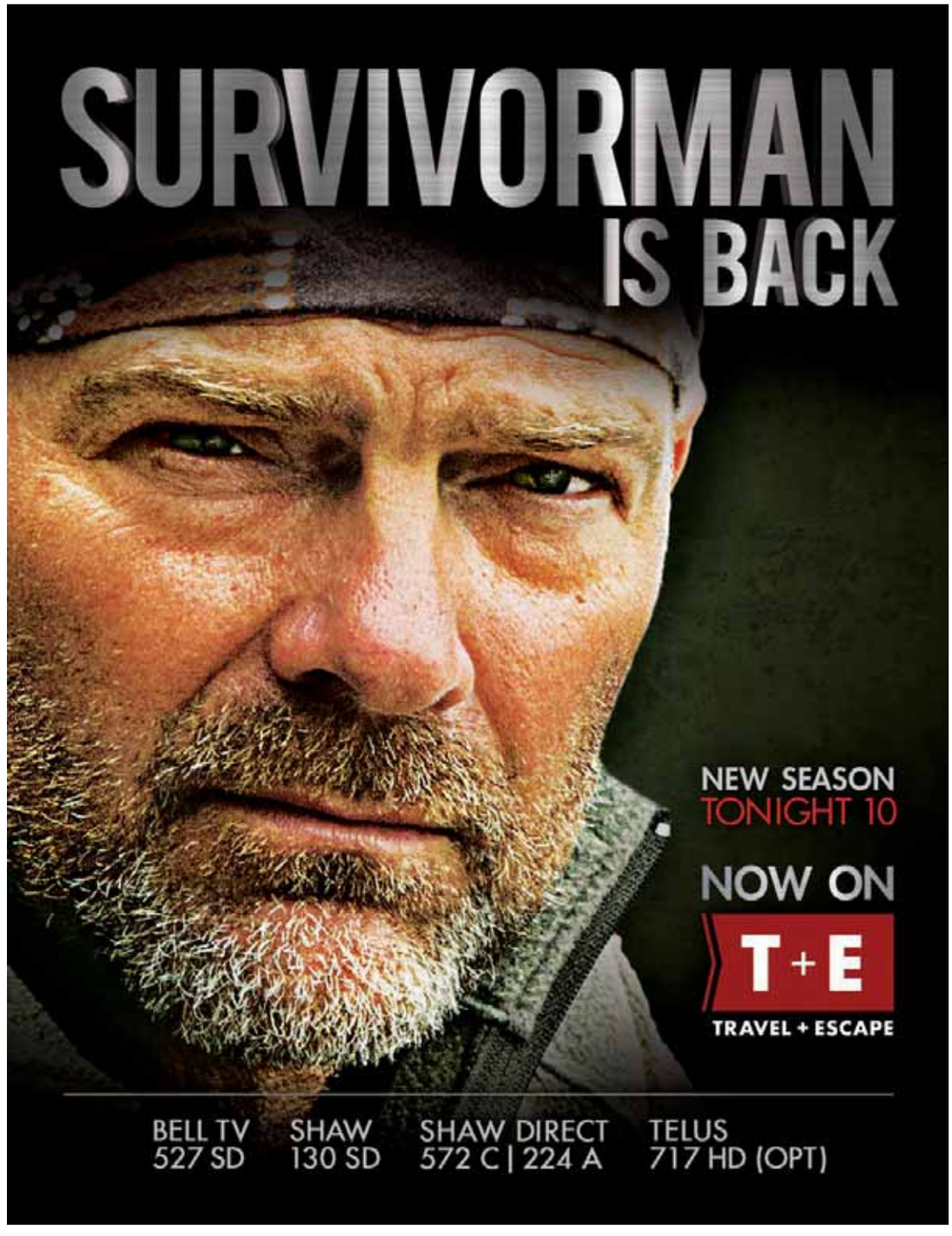
The man was later identified as Lil Za, a rapper whose real name is Xavier Smith. Jail records show Smith, 20, was being held in lieu of $20,000 US bail. Thompson said the cocaine linked to Smith was in plain sight when detectives searched Bieber's house.

Bieber, 19, was at the home and co-operated with authorities but was not interviewed by detectives. Thompson said he expected the singer to speak with detectives when his attorney could be present.

"He has not been arrested, nor has he been exonerated," Thompson said of Bieber.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog course was designed by Pete Dye, who is renowned for his radical designs. COURTESY CASA DE CAMPO

Bikinis, beaches and birdies

Casa de Campo.

Dominican Republic resort boasts best golf course in the Caribbean

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

In golf, as in fashion, it's impossible to overestimate the marketing clout of a bikini-clad supermodel.

Already a favourite among the game's cognoscenti, Casa de Campo instantly became a must-play destination for red-blooded golfers everywhere when the posh Dominican Republic resort provided the tropical backdrop for Elle Macpherson and other beauties in the 1987 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

"Sports Illustrated was the breakthrough we'd been waiting for," says Montreal-born Gilles Gagnon, Casa de Campo's director of golf since 1980. "It showcased a unique course and an exotic Caribbean setting that golfers wanted to tick off their bucket list along with St. Andrews and Pebble Beach."

Today, Casa de Campo ranks among the world's elite resorts, attracting, among others, billionaires, former U.S. presidents and movie stars who come to golf, play polo, skeet shoot, frolic in the surf and otherwise enjoy a sprawling 7,000-acre retreat so big and ripe with possibilities that hotel guests are given golf carts to get around the grounds.

But even more than Sports Illustrated, Casa de Campo's success has rested from its opening in 1971 on the brilliance of Teeth of the Dog, the marquee attraction of the property's three Pete Dye-designed courses. Dye, now 88, is renowned for his often radical designs at TPC Sawgrass and other celebrated courses. He was hired by then owners Gulf + Western to literally chisel a course from the oceanfront site's razor-sharp coral rock, called "dientes del perro" (teeth of the dog in Spanish) by his frustrated Dominican crew.

Planted sprig by sprig using machete-sharpened sticks, Dye's generous fairways wind through now mature stands of coconut palms, gumbo-limbo trees and bougainvillea. The real fun begins closer to the greens, where sand and water and severe drop-offs demand surgically precise approach shots. Most unforgettable of all are the seven oceanside holes, including the eponymous 16th, a long and treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws.

A hands-on perfectionist, Dye, who used to own a home on the property, has spent half a lifetime tweaking and even massively reworking Teeth of the Dog and the resort's two other courses.

Reopened in early 2012 after a major reconstruction, The Links is a 6,900-yard inland layout played around man-made lakes and through tall roughs of bahia and guinea grass. And, perched on windswept bluffs overlooking the Chavon River, Dye Fore, a rolling and starkly bare behemoth that launched to rave reviews in 2003, has been expanded from 18 to 27 holes. Dye Fore's new nine, Lakes, snakes dramatically around 25 acres of ponds.

For the non-golfers

- **Resort amenities.** The hotel recently completed a $40 million refurbishment and guests can enjoy the pool, spa and private villas.
- **Polo anyone?** There are weekly polo matches as well as skeet and trap shooting at the 300-station shooting centre.

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Travel tips

Survive those winter airport blues

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Don't let winter travel delays get you down. ISTOCK

Over the last month, we've seen thousands of travellers delayed or stranded in airports across the country. With weeks of winter weather still ahead of us, here's a quick course in Winter Travel 101.

Flight cancelled? If your flight is cancelled, you will be automatically re-accommodated on the next available flight. How soon depends on the frequency of service to your destination. The challenge during peak travel periods is that flights are often full. It could take days. If you initially have trouble re-booking your cancelled flight, it is worth checking back frequently as larger airlines like Air Canada may try to add more flights when extra crew and capacity become available.

Flight delayed? In the case of weather-related delays, there are no set rules that airlines in Canada have to follow. Each airline does, however, spell out its passengers' rights in its condition of carriage, a lengthy document that outlines exactly what compensation you can expect from your air carrier in case things go wrong. WestJet will provide you, depending on the length of the delay, with meal and taxi vouchers as well as an overnight stay in a hotel if you are not in your home city. The compensation varies from airline to airline.

It's all in the plan. Book the first flight out in the morning to ensure you are aren't waiting for your aircraft to arrive. Avoid layovers, and if you're heading south and need to make a connection, skip cities like Chicago and Boston and transfer through Miami and Houston, which are less affected by winter storms. If you can, only bring a carry on as it saves time on both ends. Consider buying interruption insurance, which will cover a portion of your unexpected expenses even if the causes are weather-related.

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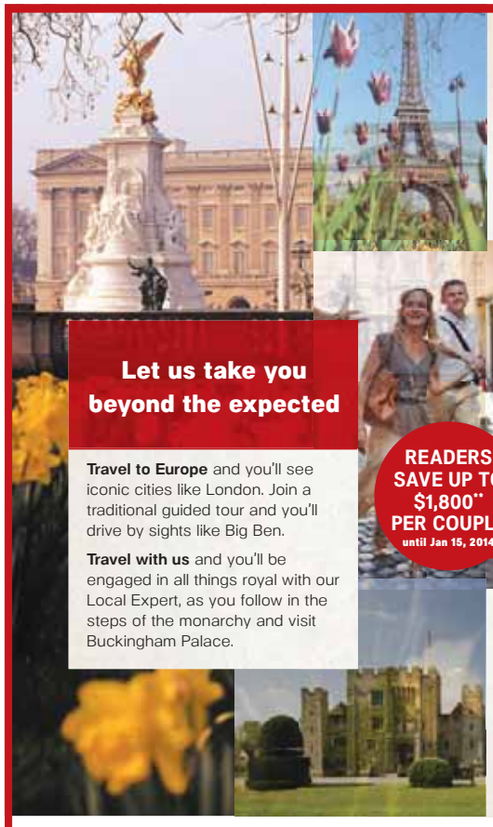

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Contest

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Do you have what it takes to be a professional connoisseur? Then Tourism Tobago is looking for you to be their Island Connoisseur.

One winner will spend July and August on the island, sharing their experiences over social media. Oh yeah — there's a $30,000 salary for the two-month gig, too.

So who's the ideal connoisseur? An outgoing personality helps. So does being a social media whiz. You must also love learning about new cultures. To enter the contest, submit your short bio and 30-second video to 60daysinparadise.com.

A panel of travel industry experts will pick the top 10 applicants and then Canadians will vote to decide who will become the Island Connoisseur.

METRO

Quick dinner helps to clean out the fridge, too

Vegetable and Rice Frittata. This dish is great because of its versatility. Use leftover rice and veggies or add your own flavours

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This vegetarian frittata can be served up with a green salad. Busy night? Start your dinner with a warm bowl of soup and then take a wedge of this with you for a quick meal on the run. It's just as good the next day, served up for lunch with some pasta sauce.

This quick, simple dinner is also a wonderful way to clean out the fridge by using up leftover rice and perhaps even last night's cooked vegetables.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped fresh or frozen broccoli
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder or paste
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) vegetable broth
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked brown rice
- 4 eggs
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground black pepper

1. In an 8 inch (20 cm) heatproof nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook shallot and garlic for 2 minutes or until softened. Stir in broccoli, red pepper and curry powder to coat. Add broth, cover and cook for 5 minutes or until broccoli is tender. Stir in rice to coat well.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together eggs, egg whites, salt and ground pepper. Pour over vegetable mixture, lifting and stirring eggs into the mixture with a spatula. Cover and cook for about 8 minutes or until edges are set and puffed. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for 2 to 4 minutes or until knife inserted in centre comes out clean and top is golden brown.

FLASH FOOD

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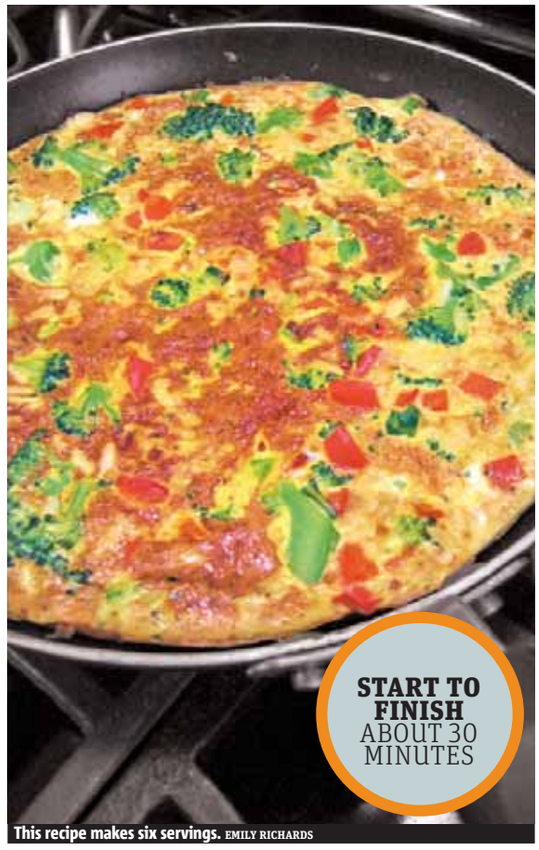
Cooking tips

- This recipe is a great way to use up leftover rice. Whether it is white or brown or sticky rice it will work well. No rice? No problem. When shopping, pick up pre-cooked rice that is ready when you are, so there's no need to cook the rice at home and wait an extra 20 minutes to make the frittata.
- If using frozen broccoli, be sure to thaw if before for best results. The extra water will dilute the flavour in the frittata.
- This dish is also great with peas, potatoes, asparagus or zucchini if that is what you had in your fridge as leftovers.



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Modern update on French Onion Soup

Adding wild mushrooms to this classic French onion soup adds a twist to make this hearty, rich flavour perfect for winter fare. It's a great make-ahead meal to heat up after watching ski sessions or after a simple backyard snowman-making session.

This recipe makes six to eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

1. Place mushrooms in small bowl and pour water over top. Let stand 15 minutes or until softened. Drain, reserving water and chop mushrooms; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in large soup pot, melt butter over medium high heat and cook onions for about 10 minutes or until softened. Add mushrooms, garlic and thyme and cook for about 15 minutes or until no liquid remains. Add sherry and cook for about 5 minutes or until evaporated. Add stock and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Meanwhile, place cheese on top of baguette slices. Ladle soup into French onion soup bowls or heatproof bowls and top each with 2 cheese-topped baguette slices. Place on baking sheet and broil for about 1 minute or until cheese is bubbly and baguette is golden.

EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) dried porcini or other dried mushrooms
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) boiling water
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) butter
- 2 large Spanish onions, thinly sliced
- 2 lbs (1 kg) wild mushrooms, such as shiitake, cremini, oyster, or king, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) dry sherry or Madeira wine
- 8 cups (2 l) vegetable or chicken stock
- 6 oz (175 g) Cambenzola cheese, sliced
- 16 slices of baguette

Prepping for Dine Out *A Chef's Tale*

Vancouver, BC

It's an hour to dinner service and L'Abattoir's kitchen is buzzing. Chefs, bartenders and frontline staff flit through the empty restaurant like bees in a hive – but it's with an easy grace, chatting and playfully ribbing each other. In two days, every seat will be filled and it'll feel like someone grabbed the hive and shook it – Dine Out Vancouver Festival tends to have that effect, but particularly for this Gastown hideaway whose festival focus diverges sharply from that of most city restaurants. Join us as we peer behind the curtain with Greg McCallum, sous chef and master of L'Abattoir's 2014 Dine Out menu.

How far in advance does L'Abattoir start planning for Dine Out?

Three-and-a-half months before the festival. We start by brainstorming ingredients we want to use, then discuss how to incorporate them into dishes. There are only three starters and three mains on the Dine Out menu, but we're careful to cater to everyone and cover everything – fish, vegetarian items, meaty dishes for the carnivores. At the end of the day, our menus are 100 percent L'Abattoir: they have to taste good and look beautiful. People have to crave it.

L'Abattoir offers a cocktail as a dessert option. Brilliant!

Yup. It takes the heat off our pastry team and also gives people the opportunity to try Shaun Layton's amazing cocktails. Everybody wins!

What's the inspiration behind your three-course menu this year?

We're trying to veer away from boring dishes like salads and soups. L'Abattoir is all about experimenting with different formations like pressed chicken terrine and grilled octopus.

How many recipes did you and your team test-drive before selecting the finalists?

We try each recipe three or four times until we're satisfied. And one dish might encompass 10 or 12 recipes – pasta, for example, will have separate recipes for the puree, dough and sauce. We fine-tune them all.

Who gets to taste-test the dishes, and how do we get that job?

I'll feature them on our regular menu – customers are the best critics, and they're great at giving us feedback. If an item sells well and people enjoy it, then it's a winner.

$38 for three delicious courses – L'Abattoir must be jam-packed during Dine Out.

It's loaded. Last year we sold out in the first two days.

Yikes!

I know!

This is your first year taking full control of the Dine Out menu. How does it feel?

It's such an awesome opportunity for me. I have the menu all written out and we've tried just about everything. We're ready to go.

Don't wage war at the watercooler, solve conflict with care and class

Ban boardroom brawls. Fight the urge to approach workplace battles with animosity and aggression

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

Don't just talk, be a good listener too. You need to give the other person a chance to tell their side of the story.
ISTOCK

Have you ever gotten in a conflict at school with one of your project team members — or with a colleague at work?

Perhaps someone isn't showing up to meetings or contributing to a group task. Perhaps a personal issue has arisen with one of your coworkers.

These conflicts can leave you agitated and frustrated, whether they are personal, school-related or work-related. Here are six handy conflict resolution tips that you may find useful in helping you to work through and settle these conflicts.

Talk directly

Rather than complaining to others and spreading rumours, it is best to talk directly with the person or persons involved in the issue. Taking a direct approach is definitely a lot more useful and will be faster than if you try to get someone else to do the talking for you.

If you aren't sure about this approach, speaking to a superior or instructor is a great idea — they may have insight or advice.

Choose a good time and place

Make sure to consider the setting of any discussion or attempt to resolve conflict. You don't want to be discussing your personal issues in front of everyone else, or somewhere where you are likely to be interrupted or distracted. Try to find a place where you can focus on the issue at hand. Choosing a good time will allow you to engage in a thorough dialogue to resolve the issue.

Choose your words carefully

This one is pretty self-explanatory. When tensions are high, the wrong choice of words can turn a productive discussion into a new stage of the problem. If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Plan ahead

Identifying the issue at hand and the necessary areas of discussion will make your resolution efforts more effective.

Try and get a clear understanding of the issue at hand, who the involved parties are and what a solution that meets the needs of every party will look like. Concentrate on addressing the issue at hand and focus on your own behaviour and areas of responsibility.

Give information

This is arguably the most important step. Try not to make assumptions. Making a statement like: "You are doing this to make my job harder!" won't get you anywhere. Instead, try offering information: "When you do this, it affects me because...."

Keep your emotions in check

If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Follow up on the solution

- When you have figured out a mutually agreeable solution, make sure to periodically check in with each person to ensure the solution is still working well for both of you.
- Of course, not all conflicts can be resolved under your own authority, no matter how hard you try. Be ready to resort to taking the issue to an instructor or supervisor to ensure that a proper process is followed.

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Tennis

Serena Courts history at Aussie Open Round 2

Serena Williams matched one of Margaret Court's records at the Australian Open on Wednesday as she advanced to the third round with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Vesna Dolonc.

Williams improved her record to 60-8 at Melbourne Park, equaling Court's 60 match wins in the Open era at the Australian championship. Court, who won seven of her 11 Australian titles before the Open era began in 1968, has a show court named in her honour adjacent to Rod Laver Arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Seahawks say they limited ticket sales to avoid brokers, not 49ers fans

The Seattle Seahawks say their decision to limit ticket sales for the NFC championship game to certain states was due to concerns over ticket brokers.

The Seahawks sold out a small allotment of available tickets — less than 3,000 — in less than 30 minutes Monday. The team has taken heat for excluding fans with billing addresses in California from purchasing tickets to Sunday's game between the Seahawks and San Francisco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Truculent Canucks?

NHL. After emotional loss to L.A. Kings, Vancouver prepares to face Pacific Division-leading Ducks

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The big and bad, gritty and nasty Vancouver Canucks.

How's that for a change? The Canucks decided brute force was the answer against the rival L.A. Kings on Monday. Fights, attempted fights, hits. Plenty of stoppages and scrums after whistles. And don't forget the penalty kill, which was both effective and dangerous, especially in that chaotic opening 10 minutes.

As entertaining as it might've been, the Canucks came away with a loss and empty-handed in the points column.

The reasons for such a physical response dated back to Dustin Brown's running of goalie Roberto Luongo 10 days ago. The Canucks were out to show the Kings and other teams in the Western Conference that they will no longer be pushed around.

It wasn't always this way. Fans have been critical of the Canucks in recent years when they would combat bruising opponents with their skill, instead of physical push.

The debate Tuesday with local hockey fans was fervent.

Tough guy Tom Sestito goes after the Kings' Jordan Nolan during the Canucks' 1-0 loss on Monday night at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

To some, the Canucks earned a moral victory. Perhaps this is the turning of a corner with this edition. Perhaps it's the John Tortorella Effect strengthening its hold.

Archibald sent to Utica

The Canucks announced Tuesday that forward Darren Archibald has been sent back to the Utica Comets in the American Hockey League.

- As per the Canucks' official Twitter account, Tortorella said another forward will be recalled, however nothing has been announced. David Booth will also play Wednesday, after missing the last three games.

The Canucks spoke of the positives afterward.

Then there are those who would say it doesn't matter because the Kings still won the game. The antagonist, the aforementioned Brown, who scored the winner.

Needless to say, a goal would've helped the Canucks. Two would've been ideal in a 1-0 hockey game.

They had their chances, including two third-period power plays, which went the unconventional route and utilized defenceman Kevin Bieksa in front of the opposition's net. The Canucks failed to score.

Now their attention turns to the Ducks, leaders of the division by 13 points as of Tuesday afternoon and holders of a 19-0-2 home record.

The Canucks and Ducks play Wednesday.

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Canada's very own Micra

Review. It's been 21 years since it was last sold here but now Nissan has decided to bring it back and 'Canadianize' it

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: NISSAN

Nissan Micra's re-introduction to Canada reflects this country's love of small hatchbacks .

Currently sold in 160 countries, the Nissan Micra subcompact hatchback is a very successful global car.

But it's always been a no-show in the U.S., and it's been 21 years since it was last sold in Canada for an unremarkable seven-year run.

Nissan Canada just announced it will try the Micra experiment again, this time with feeling, and with a very "Canadianized" version, which will be exclusive to Canada. Nissan's U.S. arm is still not Micra motivated, and won't be selling any Micra versions any time soon.

Historically, the Canadian marketplace has always been populated with Canada-only models not sold in the U.S., but they're getting scarcer on the ground, and with what Nissan Canada had to go through, to make this new Micra happen, you can see why…

"It was in development for three years solid," says Andrew Wilton, Nissan Canada's chief marketing manager, and one of the Nissan execs on hand for the model's first unveiling, at a special event in Montreal last week. "You wouldn't believe the amount of engineering that went into it."

The Canadian 2015 Micra will be built at Nissan's Mexican plant, which has been building Mexican-market Micras for years, but Wilton said the Canadian version is closer to the European version. "We looked at the Mexican car, but it just wasn't right for us. We wanted more of the European touches."

In fact, the launch of the Canadian car was timed to coincide with the European model's mid-cycle revision, just completed in 2013.

Some of the "Canada-only" items on this Micra include ducts for rear-seat heating, 60/40 split folding rear seat, heated side mirrors, and front and rear sway bars for the suspension. Wilton and Nissan Canada are really proud of that suspension.

They took the best Micra suspension component set up they could find globally, in that European market Micra, and made it even better, by adding those sway bars: "No other market has a front or rear sway bar," boasted Wilton.

The car also gets the European 15 and 16 inch wheels, because Nissan Canada liked the looks of them, and Canadians use winter tires, and those are harder to come by on the smaller 13 and 14 inch wheels featured on the Micra models in other markets.

"That's the beauty of a global car. You can pick and choose from every single market. We selfishly like to think we did a really good job at the picking and choosing," added Wilton.

The Micra is smaller than the Nissan Versa Note, but shares the same V-platform, which underpins a lot of small Nissans (V stands for versatile). Micra's engine will also be the same 1.6-litre "four" toiling away in Versa Note, but Micra will go with a five-speed manual or conventional four-speed automatic; Versa's automatic is a CVT.

Keeping the "higher-technology" pieces on the Versa Note is Nissan's strategy to give the two small hatchbacks some separation on the sales floor and on the price ladder. So don't expect stuff up-market options like heated seats, navigation, and 360-degree monitor on the Micra.

Versa Note's base price is $13,348. Micra's will be lower than that, but Nissan is not saying by how much exactly, at least not yet.

2015 Nissan Micra

- **Type.** Subcompact four-door hatchback
- **Engine.** 1.6-lite four-cylinder engine
- **Transmissions.** 4-speed automatic or 5-speed manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** Nissan said it will be lower than their $13.3K Versa Note

Exclusive Canadian club

The Canadian marketplace has always featured vehicles not sold in the U.S., but we're seeing less and less of them. Here are a few past and Canadian-market models that were, or are, persona non grata in the U.S., 1959 Dodge Viscount; 2000 Toyota Echo Hatchback; 2005 Acura EL 1.7, 2009 Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Automotive eye candy is coming ...

Autoknow. In a world that seems incapable of keeping secrets, the Detroit Auto Show still has a surprise or two up its sleeve

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The 2014 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, Mich., won't likely have the punch of the 2013 event.

Why? The Corvette was a huge draw a year ago. And with the international debut of the 2015 Ford Mustang already having taken place in December, this year's NAIAS will launch Jan. 18 to the general public without the draw of a clear headline act.

But what the NAIAS will lack in the revelations of iconic vehicles, it will likely make up for with a wide variety of debuts from many of the premier manufacturers around the world. More than 20 top autobuilders have confirmed vehicle launches during the show, including Acura, Bentley, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage," said Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show. "That means introductions of an expected 50 worldwide concept and production vehicles that will be seen for the very first time right here in Detroit."

Almost 30,000 industry professionals, 5,000 journalists and 750,000 visitors will converge on the Cobo Center in Detroit for the Super Bowl of auto shows that ends Jan. 26. "The manufacturers made it abundantly clear that this show and the global stage it provides is of critical importance to their vehicle launch strategies," said 2013 show chairman Jim Seavitt.

As expected, every vehicle type — more than 500 models total —will be displayed on more than 60 exhibitor stages throughout the 2.4 million square-foot Cobo Center.

Many manufacturers are keeping their reveal plans hidden in the garage, but a few details have leaked on what show visitors can expect. Following are some of the most anticipated vehicle debuts scheduled for Detroit.

Quoted

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage."

Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show

2014 BMW 2 Series Coupe

Bavarian Motor Works is creating arguably the most buzz of any manufacturer as it readies to pull the covers off of not one, not two, but three important vehicle launches in Detroit. The most anticipated of the three surrounds the 2 Series, which is a two-door coupe designed and built to replace the aging 1 Series. The new car will be a late-2014-model-year arrival when it goes on sale in March. The 2 Series is about nine centimetres longer that the 1 Series and has more space between the front and rear wheels, meaning more cabin and storage space. Why call it a 2 Series? BMW is rejigging its number sequencing with even digits being assigned to two-door models. Two models will be available at launch: the base 228i; and the sportier M235i. BMW will also unveil its all-new M3 performance sedan and M4 coupe in Detroit.

2015 Mercedes-Benz C Class

Hoping to attract even more popularity to its best-selling model, Mercedes-Benz will introduce an all-new longer and wider C Class coupe that the company touts as "a bold departure from its predecessor," a classic model that has already sold more than 2.4 million units worldwide. By adding more aluminum in construction - almost 50 per cent compared to 10 per cent in the outgoing C Class car — the new vehicle sheds about 100 kilograms from the existing model, a weight reduction that Mercedes-Benz says will help cut fuel consumption by about 20 per cent and greatly improve handling and agility. An air suspension will be available for the first time in the C Class, with three engine options to choose from at launch. The C180 and the C200 models feature 1.6- and 1.9-litre powerplants. The C220 CDI carries a 2.1-litre turbo-diesel. A hybrid model will also be added to the C Class catalog later this year.

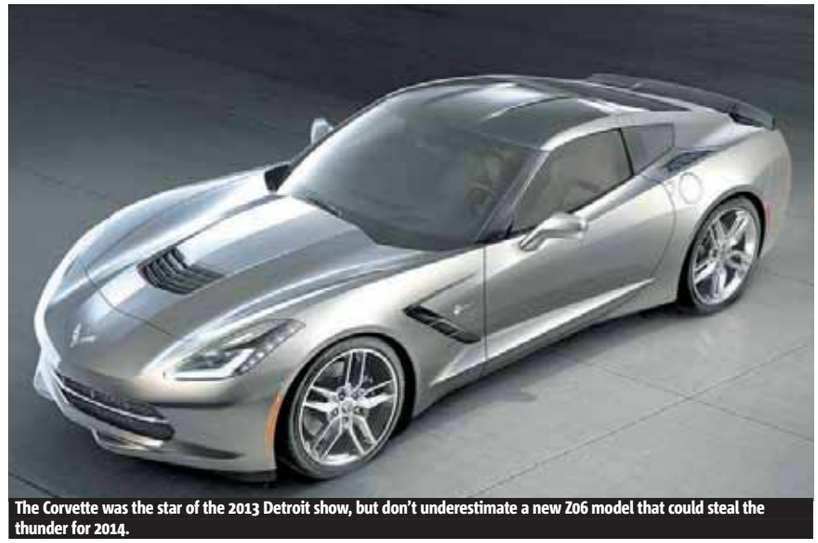
2015 Lexus RC F

Based on a couple of teaser photos from Lexus, the RC F is a high-performance version of the RC coupe that was unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in November. According to Autoblog.com, the new RC F will be the hit of the Lexus lineup in Detroit, with a V8 engine that will produce up to 460 horsepower, and with similar styling and design cues featured on the LF-CC concept car that was unveiled at the 2012 Paris Motor Show.

2015 Honda Fit

Honda promises that its third-generation Fit will feature fresher styling, more space and improved fuel efficiency. An all-new platform and powertrain is also expected to improve performance for a popular subcompact that has sold nearly five million units in 123 different countries since its introduction in 2001.As the new-car buyer continues to crave lower fuel consumption, Honda promises that the new Fit hybrid will not only deliver terrific efficiency but better performance and some of the best safety features in its class. Add to these four anticipated production models the debuts of some intriguing concept vehicles such as the bold-looking John Cooper Works model from Mini and the Formula One racing inspired Q50 from Infiniti, and the hosts of NAIAS vow that the 2014 show will be want for nothing. "It's what we've been working on since last January," Shuman said of the massive event preparations. "This show is going to rock."

The Lexus RC coupe was unveiled in November, but a high-performance RC F will launch in Detroit



The Corvette was the star of the 2013 Detroit show, but don't underestimate a new Z06 model that could steal the thunder for 2014.

Even though the new Mustang has already been unveiled, Detroit might represent the first opportunity to see one in the flesh.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The full moon's influence will pull your emotions first one way then the other over the next 48 hours. So the safest course of action is to ignore them completely and act only on what your head tells you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You would like nothing better than to turn your back on the past and start again but you know it isn't practical. Make the most of the situation you find yourself in. It's not that bad.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may lose your temper with someone who lets you down. But don't feel bad about it because you are not the only one whose emotions are up in the air. Even Geminis get annoyed once in a while.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What happens tomorrow, when the moon is full in your sign, may seem extreme. But who says life is fair? Others have the power to make the rules and you don't, so adapt.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will fall out with someone today, most likely because you cannot agree on issues of a philosophical nature. Fortunately, you will also find it easy to make up and be friends again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As tomorrow's full moon cuts across one of the outspoken areas of your chart, you won't be tactful when dealing with people whose opinions you do not share. But why should you be when you are right?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Are you in charge of your emotions or are they in charge of you? If you are honest, it will most likely be the latter. Whatever happens, don't let your fears damage your career.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The tensions in one area of your life have almost reached breaking point but that need not be as bad as it sounds. In fact, it could even be good if it clears away all the resentments you've been saving up these past few months.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Tomorrow's full moon makes it likely that you will clash with someone over money. But don't take it seriously because in a matter of days neither of you will be able to remember what it was all about.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let your emotions get the better of you over the next few of days. Others can rush about like it's the end of the world but you will remain cool and with full self-control.

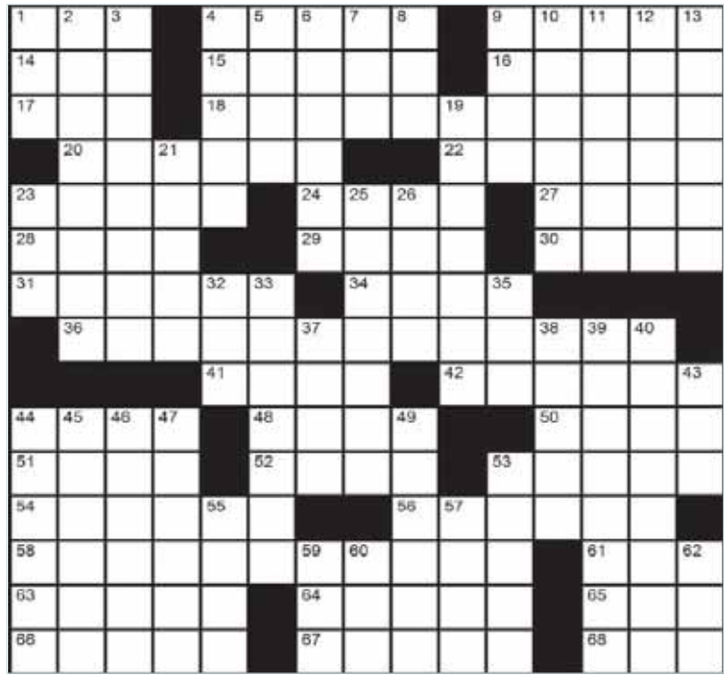
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be in a fighting mood but don't lose sight that while some things are worth fighting for, others are not. Pick your battles carefully and make sure your enemy is worthy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It will pay you to steer clear of touchy subjects over the next 48 hours. There are things going on that you disapprove of but will getting involved on an emotional level change anything? No. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

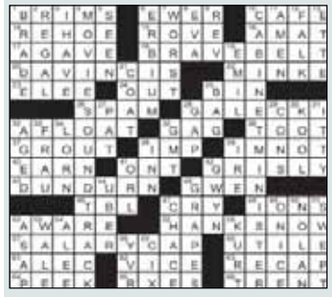
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cooling device
4. Soldier date for Barbie: 2 wds.
9. Store areas [abbr.]
14. Author Mr. Levin
15. Wearer of the black tutu in Swan Lake
16. Love, in Venice
17. Montreal area, lettered
18. Origin for medical-grade marijuana: 2 wds.
20. Bean-yielding trees
22. Sheepish response to "Where'd that last piece of cake go?": 3 wds.
23. "Sheesh.": 2 wds.
24. Eden offspring
27. Ms. Sommer
28. Crying sounds
29. Songwriter, Jimmy __
30. Crate strip
31. Hamilton radio station, K-__ _ _
34. Ancient Greece's war god
36. 18-3224 __ __: Purple hue that is Pantone's 'Color of the Year' for 2014
41. And others, for short
42. Bug's midsection
44. Dress lines
48. Nautical ropes
50. Alone
51. Nursemaid
52. Mixture
53. __ Park (Thomas Edison's home/lab site in New Jersey)
54. Change a moniker
56. Ukraine port city
58. Type of police bust: 2 wds.
61. Sundial number
63. Like an omelet
64. Was resentful, __ _ grudge
65. __. _ (Julius Erving, to basketball fans)
66. Ms. Witherspoon
67. Bathroom cleanser
68. "Omigod!"

Down
1. In shape
2. Football-on-TV watcher, __ quarterback
3. Community in BC's Okanagan Valley
4. Middle East: __ Heights
5. Thought: Prefix
6. __ puzzle
7. 'Pay' suffix
8. Three-lettered fish
9. Olympic swimming great Ms. Torres
10. Overacts
11. Coastal city of BC, __ River
12. Three-horsed Russian carriage
13. Set of seven
19. Stage show collaborators, __ & Sullivan
21. Surveyed
23. Night flapper
25. 1964: "Ladies and gentlemen... The __!!!"
26. River of Spain
32. Giant's cry of disgust
33. 1497: John Cabot's ship, The __
35. Principal's employer, for short
37. Quebec water brand
38. Sprays
39. TV series that starred Canadian actor Raymond Burr
40. Canadian Senator/humanitarian, Romeo __
43. Tic-Tac-Toe line
44. Current PM
45. Arise
46. Horsemanship academy
47. Sunglasses
49. Sandbanks
53. Athlete's prize
55. Formed
57. "Thank You" songstress
59. Oilers org.
60. King: Spanish
62. Alphabetic trio

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

8		2		7		1	6	
	9	7						
			4					2
2		1	3					
7			6		1			3
					4	5		7
5					2			
						4	7	
	4	6		8		9		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	5	9	8	2	3	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	9	6	5
4	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	8
6	4	7	5	9	8	1	2	3
5	8	2	6	3	1	4	9	7
1	3	9	7	2	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2
9	7	6	2	4	3	8	5	1
2	1	4	8	7	5	6	3	9

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8°/4°
Variable

Thursday
8°/4°
Sunny

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GLS model shown

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2013 ELANTRA L

Limited model shown

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Limited model shown

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2014 SANTA FE SPORT

Limited model shown

OWN IT FOR **$139** BI-WEEKLY
AT **1.9%†** FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $1,500 DOWN PAYMENT
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5 YEAR WARRANTY

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Jim Pattison Hyundai Northshore
855 Automall Dr.
North Vancouver, 604-985-0055
D#6700

Murray Hyundai White Rock
3150 King George Highway
Surrey, 604-538-7022
D#30780

OpenRoad Hyundai
13171 Smallwood Place
Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

Maple Ridge Hyundai
23213 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, 604-467-3401
D#7356

Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
Unit B - 2385 Ottawa St.
Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
D#30242

Abbotsford Hyundai
30250 Automall Dr.
Abbotsford, 604-857-2622
D#9390

Langley Hyundai
19459 Langley Bypass
Surrey, 604-539-8549
D#30331

Mertin Hyundai
45753 Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, 604-702-1000
D#30337

Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey
15365 Guildford Drive
North Surrey, 604-582-8118
D#10977

Destination Hyundai
445 Kingsway
Vancouver, 604-292-8188
D#31042